

OIL INQUIRY TO BE THOROUGH

GARFIELD MAY CONDUCT KANSAS INVESTIGATION IN PERSON.

The Fifty Agents Who Got Beef Trust Evidence Turned Loose on the Standard Oil Company.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Standard Oil inquiry to be conducted in Kansas, in accordance with the resolution passed by the House last week, was the subject of an extended conference today at the Department of Commerce and Labor. The matter was canvassed in all its phases by Commissioner of Corporations Garfield and Representative Campbell of Kansas, the author of the House resolution.

Mr. Campbell submitted to Mr. Garfield a statement of the persons interested in the Standard Oil Company in Kansas. Announcement was made this afternoon that Commissioner Garfield would probably go to Kansas and conduct the inquiry there in person.

The President has directed him to act with the greatest possible dispatch and to see to it that the work is carefully done. For this reason, he will in all probability look over the field and direct the operations of his special agents.

Representative Campbell's statement pointing out alleged evils in the oil trade in Kansas is elaborate. He begins by asserting that "the Standard Oil Company is the only purchaser of crude oil in Kansas." He charges that the company has conspired with the railroads to drive out of business independent refineries, and is almost as severe in his criticism of the carriers as he is of the oil company itself.

According to Mr. Campbell, an oil refinery was established in Hume, Kan., in 1892, and was hampered by the Standard Oil Company to such an extent, "says Mr. Campbell, that it has not had an opportunity to do a great amount of good for itself or for the people." The Humboldt refinery had a good market for fuel oil until last fall, when the rate on this commodity was increased by the railroads from 10 cents per 100 pounds from Humboldt to Kansas City to 17 cents. This increase in the rate put the refinery out of the business, and the support of the rate was raised on account of pressure brought to bear by the Standard Oil Company.

Representative Campbell then describes conditions in the Kansas oil fields, contending that all those interested in the industry are at the mercy of the Standard Oil Company, and that it is the only purchaser and that it controls the railroads.

Commissioner Garfield has already started the wheels in motion for the investigation of the Standard Oil. Practically all the special agents, about fifty in number, who were engaged in the investigation of the Standard Oil Company, will be sent to Kansas. But if Commissioner Garfield acts as deliberately as he did in the case of the beef trust, Congress will probably have to wait a long time before it gets the report on Standard Oil.

If money will help to accomplish the end, the inquiry will be of the most thorough ever conducted by the Government. Chairman Hemenway of the House Committee on Appropriations today assured Representative Campbell that Secretary McCall of the Department of Commerce and Labor should have as much money as he thought he would need.

Mr. Campbell inquired about the matter because he had read about the request of Secretary McCall for a reappropriation of the unexpended balance of the current legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. He wanted to make sure that the request would be complied with. The actual request by Mr. Campbell that there will be no trouble so far as Congress is concerned.

TOKYO, Feb. 18.—The Smith bill, making oil pipe lines common carriers, fixing transportation rates and placing pipe lines under control of the Interstate Commerce Commission, passed the House this afternoon by a vote of 107 to 0.

This makes three bills affecting the Standard Oil Company to pass in the House.

The State refinery bill, the maximum freight rate and the common carrier bill. The fourth bill, preventing discrimination in the price of products, is still being discussed in the House.

Colorado Bill for a State Oil Refinery.

DENVER, Col., Feb. 18.—Following the lead of Kansas, a bill has been introduced in the State Legislature appropriating \$125,000 for the erection and operation of an oil refinery, in competition with the Standard Oil Company. The price of crude oil in this State has recently been reduced from \$1 to 80 cents a barrel.

HOKE SMITH'S DEFENSE.

Vigorous Answer to Secretary Hitchcock's Criticism on Indian Leases.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Hoke Smith of Georgia, Secretary of the Interior under President Cleveland, tonight issued a statement in reply to the recent criticism by Secretary Hitchcock of the lease of the oil lands of the Osage Indians. The lease for ten years was executed in 1896, by the then Secretary, Smith, and its renewal was recently opposed by Secretary Hitchcock on the ground that it was a gigantic monopoly and "nothing less than a public scandal."

Secretary Hitchcock, however, has agreed to a renewal on slightly better terms as to royalty and the relinquishment by the lessees of more than half of the area of a million and a half acres. Smith took exception to Secretary Hitchcock's published criticism of the former's action, and came at once to Washington from his home in Atlanta. To-night he made public a statement in which he says that when the original lease was approved no oil had been found in Texas, and not a great deal in Kansas. There was scant hope to encourage the expense of boring wells in the Osage country.

The first lease required payment of ample royalties to the Indians in case oil or gas was found. It was recommended by Col. Freeman of the United States Army, acting Indian agent for the Osage tribe, and was approved by the War Department. It finally went to the Secretary's office, with the recommendation of the Indian Commissioner that it be approved. In July, 1896, the lease was brought to Mr. Smith's attention by a letter from ex-Senator Blair criticizing it. This letter was sent to Col. Freeman, who reported against it with Mr. Smith. The statement quotes this language of Secretary Hitchcock:

"The original lease is an unheard-of monopoly and nothing short of a public scandal. 'The mind of the Secretary must have been overstrained,' Mr. Smith adds, 'when he discovered a monopoly of oil on the Osage Reservation in 1896 before a well had been bored, a pipe laid, or a railroad built within many miles. To his opinion on this subject I am indignant.'"

"But when Secretary Hitchcock stated the original lease was nothing short of a public scandal he uttered a charge for which he was entirely without excuse. He placed himself in the class of common slanderers and he bore false witness against a predecessor in office, knowing at the time there was no truth in his baseless charge."

C. F. U. Turns to Ohio Federation.

The consolidation committee of the New York Civic Federation had a conference yesterday lasting about six hours with a delegation from the Central Federated Union. One purpose of the meeting was for the purpose of inducing the Civic Federation to take a hand in the building of a new hall, but none of these present would discuss the rumor.

ARMOUR CAR LINES' DENIAL

No Rebates Taken, Says Its Counsel—Exclusively Contracts Defended.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—A. R. Union of Chicago, general counsel for the Armour Car Lines, was before the House Committee on Interstate Commerce this afternoon. He discussed the three complaints against the private car lines—first, that by means of them rebates were paid to shippers; second, that they were "secret" contracts; third, that of exorbitant charges for refrigeration.

He maintained that those engaged in stirring up the country against the private car lines were sowing socialist seed and were substantially in the same class with the individuals who were sowing "secret" contracts; third, that of exorbitant charges for refrigeration.

"The Armour car lines do not directly or indirectly receive rebates for themselves or for other persons," said Mr. Union. "If the persons who believe the contrary and who are asking Congress to pass a law to prohibit the Armour car lines, they have to do so to apply to the courts to enforce the existing laws."

He made the flat statement that no rebates had been received by the Armour car lines since the passage of the Elkins act into a crime.

Touching the contention that the company made secret contracts with the railroads, he cited the case of a California contract of 1890, which was an exclusive contract and under which the rate from Sacramento to New York was reduced from \$175 for 24,000 pounds to \$100 for 25,000 pounds. This contract was open to all shippers, and the subject of complimentary resolutions on the part of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce.

Five years ago in North Carolina the conditions were so unsatisfactory that the shippers demanded the railroads should make an exclusive contract. The railroads refused, and the shippers should have made a decision between competitors. At the end of the investigation the railroads were requested to execute an exclusive contract with the Armour Company, and one was made covering a period of three years, which, at the request of the shippers, has been extended for five years.

The exclusive contracts have been entered into at the request and solicitation of Georgia growers. There was absolutely no great amount of money involved in the case.

Mr. Union declared that exclusive contracts were lawful and necessary on account of the long season.

ALCOHOL TO HELP FARMERS.

Head of Free Seed Department Asked to Look Into the Matter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Alcohol, held in Kansas, Maine and some other States to be the greatest enemy the human race has ever raised up against itself, if Representative Murdock of Kansas can have his way, will be changed into one of the most beneficial agencies the race can command. He offered a resolution in the House today in which Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture is asked to inquire what benefits would accrue to agriculture from the free use of methylated and denatured alcohol in the United States.

Now, Mr. Murdock did not know anything about that kind of alcohol until after he had read a report made by Frank H. Mason, American Consul-General at Berlin. That fired his imagination and he has since been endeavoring to get the Government to consider the matter.

Germany is growing rich by manufacturing alcohol of that kind and selling it to automobile, cooks and other persons who require a hot fire.

After reading the report he concluded that what was good for the Germans would surely be fine for Kansas. But he didn't know what methylated and denatured alcohol might be. Nor did Representative Littlefield, who sits near him and also comes from a State where, officially, alcohol is sold.

But they read the whole of the report and found that alcohol with all the additives that are added to it, is sold for the purpose of being used in the manufacture of corn-cobs and corn-stalks. Corn-cobs and corn-stalks attracted the eye of the Kansas farmer.

"That's us," he exclaimed. "We have some stalks and a few cobs." The resolution followed the solicitude.

The Mason report says the fluid can be made for about \$1 a barrel in Germany, where so-called refuse is more closely worked up than in this country, and that it makes the finest sort of fuel for steam engines and the best for generating steam, even on locomotives, is held to be cheaper than the use of coal.

ROOSEVELT'S MOVE FOR PEACE.

To Present Broad Scheme for International Arbitration to Hague Conference.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Plans for securing the adoption of a far-reaching scheme of international arbitration were discussed by President Roosevelt today. In a conversation with Representative Bartholdt of Missouri, president of the Interparliamentary Union for the Promotion of Arbitration, and Hayne Davis of New York, Mr. Roosevelt expressed his intention of presenting the American representatives to the second conference at The Hague to press for an agreement which shall be satisfactory alike to all the nations concerned and to the United States Senate.

This second conference, which is to be held at the instance of President Roosevelt, is not expected to take place until after the end of present hostilities between Russia and Japan.

Mr. Roosevelt's idea is for the Hague conference to agree upon the class of international subjects which shall be submitted to arbitration when occasion arises and to make a list of subjects which shall be such contingent matters as may not be specifically named in advance, but which may be designated by the arbitrators.

That was a part of the general arbitration agreement.

Immediately after his conference on the subject of international arbitration, Mr. President talked with several members of the House Naval Committee in regard to appropriations for the navy. He told them that he was in favor of the largest possible expenditures in this direction, for he holds that a large navy is the best guaranty of peace.

ANOTHER POSTAL SCANDAL.

Official "High Up" May Be Involved in Missing Stock Sales on Rural Routes.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—An investigation will in all probability soon be started by the Postmaster-General to ascertain who is responsible for the sale in and around Toledo, Ohio, by rural letter carriers of the mining stock of a company that has its headquarters in New York.

The matter came to the attention of the Department as a result of the dismissal by the Postmaster-General of thirty Toledo rural letter carriers who were caught selling stock in violation of the rules and regulations. Postmaster William Tucker of Toledo was reprimanded for his failure to call the attention of the Department to the matter sooner. In his reply he states that he had correspondence on the subject with the Department some time ago, but that no attention was then paid to his complaints that the carriers were selling mining stock on their routes.

He has been requested to furnish a list of the cities or towns in which the stock is sold by rural carriers, and on receipt of such list, if one is furnished, an investigation will be ordered. There is a hint that some official or former official "high up" may be involved.

Highwaymen Get \$45.

William Luckhardt, a monument maker living in the Hudson Boulevard, West New York, N. J., was attacked by two foot-pads in Herman avenue, Guttenberg, early yesterday morning. The highwaymen knocked him down and held him while the other searched his pockets. They stole \$45 and then took to the woods.

TSI AN'S PORTRAIT IN OURS.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES IT FROM THE CHINESE MINISTER.

They Make Speeches Full of the Sentiment of Hands Across the Sea (the Pacific Time)—Painting the Only One of Its Kind—National Museum Gets It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—An immense portrait in oil of the Empress Dowager of China, the only one in existence, was presented to the United States Government today by Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng, the Chinese Minister, in behalf of China. The presentation took place at the White House and President Roosevelt received the portrait for the Government.

Owing to its great size, the portrait was not taken to the White House for the ceremony. It will be placed in the National Museum. In making the presentation the Chinese Minister said:

"Mr. President, in obedience to the command of her Majesty the Empress Dowager of China I have the honor to present to the Government of the United States of America the distinguished and honored Chief Magistrate, the portrait of her Majesty which was on exhibition at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, as a gift from the Imperial Government of China. The course of recent events has proved to the Chinese people that the friendship of the United States is a true and lasting friendship. It is the desire of the Imperial Government of China to place the firmest reliance. In order to show in a signal manner, her appreciation of this friendship, her Majesty has taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the purchase of Louisiana, to send to the Government of the United States a portrait of her Majesty which was on exhibition at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, as a gift from the Imperial Government of China. 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